



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN NO. PA180-7-3

SUBJECT: CPA – Technical Service Provider Funds Availability

Purpose: To establish procedures to handle TSP EQIP requests for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

Expiration Date: September 30, 2007

Background: At the present time, USDA is operating under a continuing resolution budget and NRCS has identified ways to reduce costs and expenditures. One of these measures is not to fund TSP requests using Technical Assistance (TA) funds during FY 07. This policy will continue until a final budget is determined.

Action: Requests for approval of funds for TSP services for any year EQIP contract will not be approved. For all practices except Nutrient Management (590), technical assistance should be provided by NRCS staff or by partner staff operating under agreements with NRCS.

The following process should be used for farmers who have Nutrient Management (590) scheduled in their contract:

Development of Nutrient Management (590) plans in 2007 EQIP contracts can be paid using plan development incentive payment components on the EQIP 2007 Cost List Financial Assistance (FA) funds.

For Nutrient Management (590) plans in 2006 and earlier EQIP contracts, where there is a need to develop a nutrient management plan and the producer requests TSP assistance, the following strategy applies:

1. Explain the current situation to the producer.
2. Review the contract to be certain the Nutrient Management (590) was scheduled appropriately.
3. If the nutrient management plan is truly needed at the time of the request, give the producer the following options:
 - i. Apply for the Pennsylvania Act 38 Plan Development Incentives Program (PDIP).
 - ii. Apply for assistance from the Conservation District.
 - iii. Apply for any other programs the producer is aware of.
 - iv. If the nutrient management plan does not require a high level of expertise, the NRCS employee, using the proper channels, will contact the NRCS

- v. Nutrient Management Coordinator to inquire about the possibility of NRCS developing the plan.
 - vi. The farmer may hire a third party vendor at his/her own expense to develop the plan. Once the plan is implemented, the farmer can receive the plan implementation incentive payment funded in the existing contract.
4. If the nutrient management plan can be re-scheduled without otherwise altering the implementation schedule of the contract, modify the contract and re-schedule the practice. The intent of this option is to postpone the practice until funding is available in the future. This may be a viable option if the immediate need is for a manure and waste volume calculation for the purpose of designing a Waste Storage Facility, and the farmer in reality will not immediately be implementing the full nutrient management plan.

Questions should be directed to Noel Soto at noel.soto@pa.usda.gov or 717-237-2173.

/s/

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Distribution: AO